

SABIN & SONS'

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BIBLIOPOLIST.

A Literary Register and Monthly Catalogue of Old and New Books,
and Repository of Notes and Queries.

Vol. I.

NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1869.

No. 8.

Subscription, for One Year, One Dollar.

ADVERTISING: *One page, \$10; half a page, \$6; and a quarter of a page, \$4.*

Auction Sales.

JOHN DILLON'S COLLECTION.

The "interesting and valuable collection of Autograph Letters, MSS. and Historical Documents of the late John Dillon," was sold in London last June. As it included autographs of great value, and among them some Americana, we append a description of a few items.

The most valuable, or, perhaps, more correctly speaking, those that brought the highest prices, were mostly purchased by a gentleman of the name of Addington, an amateur with a long purse. He remarked that he "liked the dearest things," and his purchase of a Washington letter for £102, an Oliver Cromwell for £99, the Nelson Collection for £150, and a letter of the Earl of Strafford for £82, proved that he meant what he said.

Messrs. Holloway were his principal and, sometimes, successful opponents for the high priced autographs.

The quotations which follow are from the catalogue descriptions.

Lot 31 Included among others, autograph letters of ARNOLD and ANDRE, the latter of two pages, dated July 21, 1780. An André autograph is a very great rarity, and the present possessor has a bargain at £7.

BYRON. — Original Autograph Poems On the Death of Thyrza, "Without a

Stone to mark the Spot," 3 pp. 4to. Oct. 27, 1811. Stanzas, "Away, Away, ye Notes of Woe," 2 pp. fol. Stanzas to Thyrza, "One struggle more and I am free," 2½ pp. 4to. "And thou art dead as young and fair," 2 pp. fol., and 2 pp. 4to. A Fragment, "Could I remount the river of my years," 2 pp. 4to. Stanzas to Augusta, "Though the Days of my Glory are over," 2 pp. 4to, July 24, 1816. Epistle to Augusta, "My Sister, my sweet Sister—if a name," 6½ pp. fol., signed Illustrated with Portraits of Lord Byron, *proofs*: Views of Newstead, &c., the text of the Poems printed in 4to, inserted; Letters from the Hon. Mrs. Leigh and John Murray, respecting the Autographs; also a letter signed by Vice-Admiral Byron, and an Autograph Letter, signed, of Lord Byron's Mother.

The whole mounted and bound in one vol., folio, red morocco extra, gilt edges.
£27.

CATESBY (Robert) chief of the Gunpowder Plot Conspirators. A. L. s. 1. p. fol., with superscription "To his Lovinge cosin, Mr. John Grant at Narbrooke geve thes"

"Good Cosin I woulde entreate you if it maye be withe conveniencie that the monye be hade againste Allholoutide if not againste Sainte Thomas daye, before Christemas so Ade untill ouer meatinge at London.

Yours eavor
RO. CATESBYE."

No other writing of his is known to exist; the rare print of the Conspirators by

H. Ullrich, also a curious Dutch print of their execution and of the intended plan of carrying out the plot, accompany this fine letter. From the Donnadieu and Sainsbury Collections.

Robert Catesby and Thomas Percy were killed at one shot, Nov. 5, 1605. From the contents of this letter, it is most probable it relates to the famous plot. £30.10.0

CROMWELL.—A. L. s. 2 pp. fol., with superscription and seal, "For Colonell Walton these in London," dated *Sleaford*, Sep. 6 or 5.

A highly interesting letter; grieving for the sad condition of the Army in the West, and expressing his resolution to go to their assistance as soon as he can be set free; speaking of his own Army, he says, "If we could all intend our owne ends lesse, and our ease too, businesses in this Armie would goe on wheeles for expedition: Because some of us are enemies to rapine, and other wickednesses wee are said to be factious to seeke to maintaine our opinions in religion by force, which we detest and abhor." £55.

CROMWELL.—A. L. s. 2 pp. fol., closely written, with superscription, "To his honoured friends Sir Will. Springe and Mr. Barrow," dated 28 Sept. 1643; *portrait by Faber, after Lely.*

A MOST INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT LETTER, containing an account of Sir Thomas Fairfax's escape from Hull; and narrative of events, under Cromwell's own hand, to within a fortnight of the Winceby fight, a justification of Col. Margery's seizure of horses belonging to "malignants." Alludes to disorderly characters found in his army, "were it not that I have honest troopes to maister them, although they be well payd, yet they are soe mutinous that I may justly feare they would cut my throat;" in reference to a horse seized and sent to himself, he protests that if the owner be not adjudged a malignant it shall be returned, as he will not for the value of ten thousand horses have one to his own benefit, but only for the public use, &c. £10.

This was said to be only signed.

CROMWELL.—A. L. s. 2 pp. fol., to Col. Walton, after the Battle of Marston Moor, dated July 5, 1644; *portrait, drawing by Bulfinch, after Cooper.*

A MOST INTERESTING LETTER, giving an account of the great victory, and condoling with him in the most tender manner on the loss of his son, of whom he speaks in the highest terms; he was shot in the leg in the engagement, and died under the operation of its being cut off. The same bullet killed his horse. The letter concludes "The Lord bee your strength, soe prayes, Your truly faithfull and loving Brother, OLIVER CROMWELL." £99.

ELIZABETH, (Queen).—Instructions to Dr. Dale, her Envoy, respecting the Anjou Marriage, &c., consisting of Six Original Letters, each bearing the Queen's sign manual, with seals, accompanied by transcripts in a modern hand, 1563-75.

Letter I. dated Windsor, Dec. 27. 1563. A letter of safe conduct into Spain and the Low Countries, for Dr. Valentine Dale.

Letter II. dated Greenwich, March 16. 1573. A most important letter of instructions on the Anjou marriage. The Queen has received letters from the French King, the Queen Mother, and the Duke of Alençon, signifying, by a dispatch of their Ambassador, as well as from Dr. Dale's representations, that the Queen (Elizabeth) entertained a very great affection towards the Duke d'Anjou, and had sought out means to accomplish an interview with that Prince. "Whereof we had much marvel." . . . She sends very minute instructions to her representative as to the explanations to be given under these circumstances, skillfully reserving to herself some vantage ground however the negotiation might terminate. If the Duke of Anjou will come to England to woo in person, which, it is clear from this letter she does not desire, she proposes an arrangement for a private interview, without his coming in state to London. " . . . because we use in this spring tyme to remove from our standing howses to certain pryvate howses with small companies, to avoid great resort. onely to take the ayre; we will heere in Kent, being the next contrey to the seas syde devyse journeyes to certain pryvate places with small trayne and without resort, so as if the Duke shall come this spring tyme, he might more covertly come to our presence in these places than he should be, being at our awn howses." She begs to assure the French King that she highly appreciates the pleasure of receiving a letter from him written wholly in his own hand, and is prevented from replying in like manner by reason of her hand being somewhat strained. She sympathises with the King in the disturbances which affect his kingdom, and concludes with strong expressions of amity and promises of assistance against his enemies.

Letter III. dated Croydon, July 17, 1573. 3½ pp. fol., closely written. Very minute directions as to what should be stated to the French King, relative to the Duke of Anjou, and his intentions towards the English Queen;—while there are many reasons to weigh her mind towards the liking of the marriage, there were more, both in number and weight, to induce her to decline it. She announces the establishment of peace in Scotland through her means, and the restoration to the King of his strongest castle of Edinburgh, but without seeking to intermeddle further in the affairs of that kingdom, and particularly in not unsettling the Scots alliance with the Court of France. (. . . "No, we haue not taken that advantage that we might, and that Our progenitors in lyke tymes wold have done.") She authorizes some commendation of the French Protestants ("them of the Religion") to the favourable notice of the King—"for the more they shalbe avancid in their libertie for their exercise of their Religion, and for their surety, the gladder we wold be."

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Letter IV. dated Hampton Court, Feb. 1, 1573, 14 pp. fol., closely written. She replies to the application made on behalf of the Duke of Allenton, whose portrait has been conveyed to her, that he may have an interview, with a view to proposals of marriage. To such an interview, public or private, she will not consent: first, because much inconvenience, and probably rupture of amity would follow, if, upon such interview, there "shuld not growe satisfaction of our persons"—the other, that the enterprise against Rochelle has "conceivd in the harts of our good subjects a new jealousy and misliking of this matche." If, however, the Duke will not thus be deterred from making his visit, and "must nedes cum over in sum disguised sort," then she desires that he may be unaccompanied with any great retinue, so as to avoid observation, "for that, if there followe no liking betwene us after a view taken, the one of the other, the more secretly it be handled, the lest touch will it be to both our honors." She intercedes for a daughter of the Duc de Montpensier, that she may receive the benefit of the edict, or truce granted to the Protestants after the massacre of St. Bartholomew, during the time of her absence from France, she having withdrawn from thence "in respect of the libertie of her conscience."

Letter V. dated Greenwich, May 2, 1574. She has received Dr. Dale's letter, in cipher, and desires that in future matters of such weight and importance be set forth more fully and particularly.

Letter VI. dated St. James's, April 11, 1575. 1 p. fol. Relative to the performance of such things as were stipulated to be done in the treaty of amity concluded at Blois, between the Queen and the late King, Charles IX. The Queen is ready to do her part accordingly. £70.

ERASMUS.—A. L. s. 4½ pp. fol., in Latin, with superscription to Viglius Zuichemus, dated 26 June, 1533, with transcript and translation, portraits by Houbraeken and Houston, view of Queen's College, Cambridge, Aldington Church, Kent, House at Rotterdam, monument, inscriptions, &c.

A long and interesting letter of general information on passing events, principally literary—alludes to the case of divorce of Henry VIII before the Court of Rome. "The Pope commands that the King of England should remain in the bonds of matrimony until (judgment) shall have been pronounced upon the case at Rome." £30.

EVELYN (John). Life of Mrs. Godolphin, written at the request of my Lady Sylvius, by a friend. VN. DIEV. VN. AMY.

The Original Autograph Manuscript, eighty-three pages 4to, in his neat close hand, beautifully bound in old red morocco, richly tooled, with gilt edges and silver clasps, his monogram "J. E." on the sides. \$50.

FRANKLIN (Benjamin). A. L. s. 6½ pp. fol., dated Philadelphia, May 9, 1753; in

fine condition, with French translation, portrait, proof before letters, and two fac-similes.

A remarkable letter, treating of political and philosophical developments;—the interests of the American Republic;—character of the emigrant population of Europe to America;—observations on the human propensity to live without labor;—the charms of savage life;—the work of civilization is nevertheless indispensable, &c., &c. £20.5s.

FRANKLIN.—A. L. s. 2 pp. 4to, with superscription to David Huntley; a very fine and interesting letter, three portraits.

Respecting the terms of the Negotiation with England, America and France, and concludes with an account of Lightning Conductors. £33.

JOHNSON (Dr. Samuel). The Original Autograph Manuscript of the Life of Alexander Pope, written as a preface to the works of Pope in Johnson's edition of the English Poets. Illustrated with an A. L. s. of Alexander Pope, 1½ pp. 4to, to Samuel Richardson, June 17.

A friendly letter of invitation for himself and son—he has a copy of all his works with large margins for his son, knowing how good an use he makes of them.

A. L. s. of Samuel Johnson, 2 pp. 4to, enquiring for information from Cambridge to assist him in his compilation of the Lives of the English Poets, Bolt Court, Fleet Street, July 22, 1777. Signature of Pope to a receipt for two guineas, subscription for the translation of Homer's Iliads. A. L. s. Mrs. Piozzi, 1½ pp. 4to, Brynbell, March 9, 1814. PORTRAITS: Pope, sepia drawing; Etchings of Pope and Richardson; Dr. Johnson; Wycherley; Homer, chalk drawing; Mrs. Piozzi; Addison; Sir Richard Steele; Bishop Atterbury; Dr. Parnell; Dean Swift, proof before letters; John Dennis; Gay, mez. proof before letters; Pope's Mother; Lord Bolingbroke; Warburton; Colley Cibber, Congreve and Dryden. Views of Pope's Houses at Binfield and Twickenham, and Monument, the whole inlaid and bound in 1 vol., fol., rus-sia, gilt edges. £137.

MARIE ANTOINETTE.—A. L. s. 2 pp. 8vo, to the Princess Lamballe, Feudi, [Sept. 1, 1791]; with portraits of Marie Antoinette and Madame Elizabeth. £27.

NELSON.—An exceedingly interesting collection of Autograph Letters, both before and after the loss of his right arm. Also

autographs of Lady Hamilton, Sir Wm. Hamilton. Portraits, Plans, Views, etc. Fol. mor. gilt edges. £150.

RALEIGH, (Sir Walter). A. L. s. 1 p. fol, with superscription "To my very loving brother, Sir John Gilbert, Knight. *Falmouth*, 24th Aprill, with transcript and facsimile, portrait by Houbraken.

"I thank you for your many favours, if wee live wee hope to repay all agyne, if not wee shall recon in the kingdom of heaven." £24

RALEIGH.—A. L. s. 1 p. fol, to Sir John Gilbert, written in affectionate terms, and ordering cider and fish for supplies to be sent to Plymouth, dated from the Court 19 December, with transcript, and portrait by Simon Pass. £30.

STRAFFORD, (Thomas Wentworth, Earl of), beheaded 1641. A. L. S. 1 p. fol, to his wife; *Yorke this 30 Octob. 1642.*

Written in most affectionate terms—"Sweet Hartte. I have in little much to say to you, and in short termes, to professe that, wch I must make appeare, all my life long"—"this little, and this much, this shortt and this longe wch I am to say is noe more then to give you this first written testimony that I am your husbande, and that husbande of yours, that will ever discharge thos duties of love and respectt towards you, wch good women may expectt and that justly from good men; nay discharge them with a hallowed care," &c.

Portrait by Visscher; another drawing by G. P. Harding, after Van Dyck, beautifully finished; one from Lodge, *artist's proof on India paper*; and another, half-length, in armour. Also various additional documents, letters, facsimiles portraits, etc. £82.

WASHINGTON.—A. L. s. 3½ pp. 4to, to Sir Edward Newenham, dated *Mount Vernon*, Feb. 24, 1788; most interesting, *mezzotint portrait By C. W. Peale. This and the following letter were written at the time Washington was endeavouring to substitute a General Government for the United States, in place of the independent action of the separate States, and are historically most important in reference to that undertaking.*

We are in a state of expectation waiting the result of the State Convention relative to the proposed plan of Government. Six States only have as yet decided upon it; they are favourable. The Convention of New Hampshire is now in Session. The most formidable to it is expected to come from New York and Virginia. But as nine States will have determined upon it (and in all probability adopt it) be-

fore their Conventions take place, it is expected that its opponents in those States will not have sufficient influence to prevent its adoption there, when it is found to be the general voice of the Union. Rhode Island has discovered some symptoms of recovering from the delirium into which she has fallen." £30.

WASHINGTON.—A. L. s. to the same, 5½ pp. 4to, dated *Mount Vernon*, Aug. 29, 1788; with portrait.

Alluding to the condition of Ireland, "It was afflicting to the philanthropic mind to consider the mass of people inhabiting a country naturally fertile in productions, and full of resources, subject to an abject degree of penury and depression. If Ireland was removed 500 miles farther distant from Great Britain, the case, with respect to the former, would be as speedily as materially changed for the better." He relates, at length, the disturbances in the European continent, and hopes that the United States of America will be able to keep disengaged from the labyrinth of European politics and wars, and that before long they will by the adoption of a good national government have become respectable in the eyes of the world, so that none of the Maritime Powers, especially none of those who hold possessions in the New World or the West Indies, shall presume to treat them with insult or contempt. It should be the policy of United America to administer to their wants without being engaged in their quarrels. And it is not in the ability of the proudest and most potent people on earth to prevent us from becoming a great, a respectable, and a commercial nation. *if we shall continue united and faithful to ourselves.*

I begin to look forward with a kind of political faith, to scenes of national happiness, which have not heretofore been offered for the fruition of the most favoured nation. The natural, political and moral circumstances of our nascent empire, justify the anticipation. We have an almost unbounded territory, whose natural advantages for agriculture and commerce equal those of any on the globe. In a civil point of view, we have the unequalled privilege of choosing our own political institutions, and of improving upon the experience of mankind in the formation of a confederated government, where due energy will not be incompatible with the unalienable rights of freemen. To complete the picture, I may observe that the information and morals of our citizens appear to be peculiarly favourable for the introduction of such a plan of government as I have just now described. We exhibit, at present, the novel and astonishing spectacle of a whole people deliberating calmly on what form of government will be most conducive to their happiness; and deciding with an unexpected degree of unanimity in favour of a system which they conceive calculated to answer the purpose."

One of the most important and interesting letters of Washington ever offered for sale. £102.

A few years ago Mr. Adams, the American Minister to England, was the purchaser of a MS. of Washington, of about forty

pages. The price paid for this was £40, which was then considered very high.

WOLFE, (General James). A. L. s. 1 p. 4to, to Col. Warde; *portrait, monument in Westminster Abbey, facsimile and biographical sketch.*

Knows his desire to serve—but asks if he may mention him for distant, difficult and disagreeable service—requests an answer by return. £10.10.

Also a Receipt, signed, for forage for Horses.

BAXTER (Richard), Nonconformist Divine. A. L. s. 1 p. fol., with superscription to the Rev. Samuel Annesley, April 17. 1671. *Three portraits and biography.*

"I thought your friend had been inclined to be a Quaker,"—"but yet I am willing to come on this business; but I cannot come to Newgate till the act of Grace is past; for ever since July was twelvemonth there are warrants in the officer's hands to apprehend me, and a Mittimus to the Keeper of Newgate to receive me as his prisoner six months, without any further trial or examination: which warrants will be still in force till one of the Justices or I be dead, unless a pardon null them. And for me to put myself prisoner into Newgate is not wise. A Quaker will not goe in till he is constrained," etc. £18.

KEAN (Edmond), Actor. A. L. s. 3½ pp. fol., to Mr. Sigell, *Quebec, 25 Sept. 1826; scarce, two portraits, admission to Drury Lane, signed, playbill, cuttings, &c.*

Acknowledging the advance of £30 to his wife—has lost nine days of his present engagement from an attack of cholera—has had to pay for a consultation of physicians, who told him to prepare for the worst, asked him whether he was Protestant or Catholic, that they might send a reverend gentlemen to perform the last acts of consolation. Told them he was neither, "So I got up, shook my feathers, went and acted Richard III to a brilliant audience, and have been improving in health ever since"—contrasts the costs of travelling and dresses with those in England—his views of retirement to Bute, &c. £13.5s.

LUTHER (Martin). A. L. s. 1½ p. fol., with superscription, to John Duke of Saxony, dated at *Wurtemberg, on the Thursday after St. Margaret, 1525; VERY FINE AND EXCESSIVELY RARE, with transcript and translation, portrait, india proof before letters, and facsimile.*

AN IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING LETTER ON Ecclesiastical matters, principally with reference to the appointment of Master G. Spalatinus to the Pastoral Office at Aldenburg. £18.

MATHER (Cotton). A. L. s. 2 pp. fol.,

closely written, to Rev. John Walrond, at Ottery, *Boston, N. E. 10 Dec. 1720; very fine specimen, portrait.*

Addressed to his most valuable and memorable Friend Mr. Ball. £3.14.

MOORE. Melodies. The original manuscript music and words of thirty different Pieces, with an A. L. s. 2 pp. 8vo, *Sloperston, Oct. 27, 1831, portrait.*

Sending more matter for a book—and on money affairs—"my resources are at present in a most deplorable state"—"I have been passing three days with the Duchess of Kent and our little future Queen, and we had a great deal of Music."

The whole bound in one vol., oblong fol., half morocco. £15.15.

MOORE (Thomas). Melodies: the original autograph music with words to five pieces; with the beautiful original drawings by Maclise, and fine proofs of the engraved plates in early states, *portrait by Watt, india proof before letters, and three illustrations after Stothard; Four A. L. s. of Thomas Moore to his publisher Mr. Power, on the subject of the melodies and pecuniary matters, bound in one vol. folio, green morocco extra, gilt edges.* £36.

Autographs of the following sold, at the annexed prices:

BACON,	£19.
Chas. I,	11gs.
Marie de Medicis,	£21 & £19.
Penn,	£4.
Pope,	98s.
Prior,	£10.
Shelley,	£10.
Smollett,	£13, £9, & £7.17.
Swedenborg,	£10.
Thomson, (Jas.)	£16.
Villiers, (Geo.)	£10.
Voltaire,	£19.
Waller,	£20.
Washington,	£15, & £13.
Whitefield, (George), Founder of the	
Calvinists,	£19.
Wordsworth,	98s.
Goldsmith,	17gs.
Hancock, (John),	£3.10.
Autographs illustrating Samuel	
Johnson,	£46.

The above are some of the most important, but only a small part of a very beautiful collection, numbering 1031 catalogue lots.

LITERARY ITEMS.

From a Boston paper we copy the following: "Mr. Ferdinand Bocher, the distinguished professor of the French Language, residing in this city, has a large library, of twelve thousand volumes, relating to subjects of his special study, Philology. He expressed, a few days ago, a desire for some book in extra print, paper and binding, as a characteristic specimen of a purely American Book, like others which he had, representing English, French, German, &c.

After a long discussion *The Anthology of New Netherlands; or, Translations from the Early Dutch Poets of New York, with Memoirs of their Lives*, by Henry C. Murphy, privately published by the Bradford Club of New York, was selected as best answering the purpose, in its subject and its charming typography.

Through the kindness of Mr. John B. Moreau, the Secretary of the Bradford Club, the book, of which only one hundred

and twenty-five copies were printed, was obtained and sent to William Matthews, of N. Y., to be bound as a specimen of his best skill.

The book thus superbly gotten up was presented to Mr. Bocher, with the following note:

MY DEAR SIR:

"Will you do me the favor to accept for your Library the volume I herewith send, as a specimen of a purely American book, the more characteristic of our nationality, inasmuch as the authors were born in Holland and wrote in Dutch; the translator is an Irishman; the editor is of French extraction; and the binder an Englishman. Joel Munsell, the printer, lives in Albany, and prints for the world: and the donor is a pure Yankee without foreign taint for eight generations, and presumes he is as purely American as the rest."

THE Boston papers also chronicle the death of Charles C. Little, senior partner in the firm of Little, Brown & Co. Resolutions of respect to his memory were passed by the booksellers, and business suspended during his funeral obsequies.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Mrs. Partington.—The *nom-de-plume* was assumed by Mr. B. P. Shillaber, well-known among Boston *literati*, and Sydney Smith had nothing whatever to do with it or her. The name was an accident, or rather the "coincidence" was accidental. Her sayings first appeared in the *Carpet Bag*, a weekly newspaper, some time defunct. Mr. Shillaber was afterwards connected with the *Boston Post*, and the *Saturday Evening Gazette*. He is now employed on the *Flag of Our Union*, and other papers issued by Messrs. Elliott, Thomas & Talbot, of Boston. His connection with the *Boston Post* doubtless led "G. M. B." astray. Colonel Greene writes in another sort of vein. The quotations are like him, but in no manner resemble Mrs. Partington. Col. Greene is a wit, (or passes for such), while Mrs. Partington may only aspire to the rank of humorists. Her fun consists in the misapplication of words, or, in fact, in the same sort of maltreatment that made the fame of *Mrs. Malaprop*, in the old comedy of "The Rivals."

Perhaps one of the best things said by the worthy dame was her reproof to her son "Ike" for his inordinate consumption of green apples: "Isaac," said she, "you eat more green apples than there is any necessity for."

Col. Greene would be as much astonished as the writer at being charged with the authorship of Mrs. Partington's sayings.

There has been published (perhaps ten years, or more, ago) a book of the popular dame's speeches, or monologues, which may still be found, I think, in the book shops.

FRANCISCO.

Boston, July 20, 1869.

Can any of your readers tell me it there is a complete translation of Eugene Sue's "Mysteries of the People?" A New York House commenced one translation by Miss Mary L. Booth, but only issued one part.

L. B. T.

Baltimore, July 15, 1869.

Can any one give me a correct list of the first editions of Longfellow's Poems and Prose Writings, with the marks, as to Publishers size, &c. ?

L. B. T.

Baltimore, July 15, 1869.

Obeahism.—*Ventriloquism* (Vol. iii., pp. 59, 149).—T. H. will find, in the authorities given below, that Obeahism is not only a rite, but a religion, or rather a superstition, viz. *Serpent—Worship*. *Modern Universal History*, fol. vol. vi, p. 600; 8vo, vol. xvi. p. 411.; which is indebted for its information to the works of De Marchais, Barbot, Atkyns, and Bosman: the last of which may be seen in Pinkerton's *Collection*, vol. xvi., and a review of it in *Acta Eruditor.*, Lips. 1705, p. 265., under the form of an "Essay on Guinea." In As- tley's *Collection of Voyages*, there is an account compiled from every authority then known, and a very interesting description of the rites and ceremonies connected with this superstition. According to the same authors, the influence of the Obeist does not depend on the exercise of any art or natural magic, but on the apprehensions of evil infused into his victim's mind. See also Lewis's *Journal of a Residence among the Negroes in the West Indies*.

The following reference will furnish a reply at once to two Queries: to that here noticed, and to that on "Ventriloquism" (Vol. ii., p. 88).

The name of the sacred serpent, which in the ancient language of Canaan was variously pronounced, was derived from "ob" (inflame), perhaps from his peculiarity of inflation when irritated. See Bryant's *Analysis*, vol. 1.; Deane's *Worship of the Serpent*, p. 80. From a notion of the mysterious inflation produced by the presence of the divine spirit, those who had the spirit of Ob, or Pythia, received the names of Ob, or Pythia; according to the not unusual custom for the priest or priestess of any god to take the name of the deity they served. See Selden, *De Dis Syris*, Synt. l. c. 2. It is a curious coincidence, that as the Witch of Endor is called "Oub," and the African sorceress "Obi," from the serpent deity *Oub*, so the old English name of a witch, "hag," bears apparent relationship to the word *hak*, the ancient British name of a species of snake. In Yorkshire, according to Stukeley, they call snakes "hags" and "hag-worms," (Aubury, p. 32).

In the Breton language, *Belech* is "Priest," and may similarly indicate a priest of Bel-the-Dragon.

From the Hewbrew *Ob*, the Greek *ophis* was probably derived; for the same word in Hebrew, Arabic, and Greek, which denotes "divination" denotes a "serpent." "Nach-ash,"* "ilahat,"† "oionizesthia,"‡ have the same double signification as if the serpent were recognized as the grand inspirer of the heathen prophets. See Faber's *Horæ Mosaicæ*, vol. i. p. 98.

The word "Ob" was translated by the LXX *eggastrimulhos*, a ventriloquist, in accommodation to the received opinions respecting the Pythian priestess. See the notes to Creech's *Lucretius*, book v.; Jones's (of Nayland) *Physiolog. Disquis.* p. 290. The deception practised by the Witch of Endor, and by the damsel mentioned in Acts xvi. 16, was of this description. See Wierus de *Præstig. Dæmon.* p. 203.; and Reginald Scot's *Discoverie of Witchcraft*, p. 148.

The serpent, which with heathen mythologists had various acceptations (see Vossius, *Theologia Gent. et Physiologia Christi*) was also understood, as a natural symbol or hieroglyphic of the air. Can any of your learned correspondents furnish materials illustrative of this figurative relation between the serpent and the elements? T. J.

OBEISM.

(Vol. iii., p. 59.)

In reply to F. H., I beg leave to state that Obeism is not in itself a religion, except in the sense in which Burke says that "superstition is the religion of feeble minds." It is a belief, real or pretended, in the efficacy of certain spells and incantations, and is to the uneducated negro what sorcery was to our unenlightened forefathers. This superstition is known in St. Lucia by the name of *Kembois*. It is still extensively practised in the West Indies, but there is no reason to suppose that it is rapidly gaining ground. F. H. will find ample information on the subject in Père Labat's *Nouveau Voyage aux Isles françaises de l'Amérique*, tome ii. p. 59, and tome iv. pp. 447, 499, and 506, edition of 1742; in Bryan Edwards' *History of the West Indies*, vol.

* See Parkhurst,

† Dickinson's *Delphi Poenic.*, p. 10.

‡ Stillingfleet's *Orig. Sacra*, book iii. c. iii. s. 18.

ii. ch. ii., 5th edition (London, 1819); and in Dr. R. R. Madden's *Residence in the West Indies*, vol. ii. letter 27. Perhaps the following particulars from Bryan Edwards (who says he is indebted for them to a Mr. Long) on the etymology of *obeah*, may be acceptable to some of your readers:

"The term *obeah*, *obiak*, or *obia*, (for it is variously written), we conceive to be the adjective, and *obe* or *obi*, the noun substantive; and that by the word *obia*—men or women,—is meant those who practise *obi*. The origin of the term we should consider as of no importance, in our answer to the question proposed, if, in search of it, we were not led to disquisitions that are highly gratifying to curiosity. From the learned Mr. Bryant's commentary upon the word *oph*, we obtain a very probable etymology of the term. 'A serpent, in the Egyptian language, was called *ob* or *aub*.' 'Obion is still the Egyptian name for a serpent.' 'Moses, in the name of God, forbids the Israelites ever to inquire of the demon *Ob*, which is translated in our Bible, charmer or wizard, divinator aut sorcilegus.' 'The woman at Endor is called *aub* or *ob*, translated Pythonissa; and *oubasis* (he cites from *Horus Apollo*) was the name of the Basilisk or Royal Serpent, emblem of the sun, and an ancient oracular deity of Africa.'"

One of your correspondents has formed a substantive from *obe* by the addition of *ism*, and another from *obeah* by the same process; but it will be seen by the above quotation that there is no necessity for that obtrusive termination, the superstitious practice in

question being already sufficiently described by the word *obe* or *obi*.

HENRY H. BREEN.

St. Lucia, March, 1851.

Victor Hugo and William Penn.—The following is a passage from the opening part of Victor Hugo's new novel, *By the King's Command*. In speaking of the man-stealer and man-sellers of the 17th Century, Victor Hugo says:—"Bargain! they are for sale. In England, under Jeffreys, after the tragical adventure of Monmouth, many a lord and gentleman was decapitated and quartered. These victims left wives and daughters—widows and orphans, whom James the II presented to the Queen, his wife. The Queen sold these ladies to William Penn. What is surprising is, not that that James the II should have sold these women, but that William Penn should have bought them. The bargain by Penn is excused or explained herein, that Penn, having a desert to sow with men, had need of women. The women were a part of his implements. These ladies were a good thing for Her Gracious Majesty the Queen. The young ones brought a high price. One has the uncomfortable sense of a complicated scandal in reflecting that Penn probably got the old duchesses very cheap."

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